

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 and 35-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,797,875 to Silver ("Silver '875"). The action also rejects the claim based on a provisional, nonstatutory double patenting rejection based on claim in a co-pending application owned by the same assignee (Medela Holding AG) as the present application. Applicant will address the provisional rejection after the present claims are found to be in condition for allowance but for this aspect of the action.

With respect to the rejection under §102(b), for Silver '875 to anticipate the current claim, each and every limitation of the claim must be shown in Silver '875.

The present independent claims require a female coupling component. The female coupling component includes upper and lower portions, wherein the upper and lower portion have different diameters. The Silver '875 reference includes similar female components (see 52 in Fig. 2), but the Silver '875 reference does not have upper and lower portions with different diameters. The present claims require a rim between the upper and lower portions. Because Silver '875 does not have these upper and lower portions with different diameters, a rim cannot be present.

Furthermore, the present claims require an opening in the rim portion, which Silver '875 reference therefore also lacks. The opening (63) cited in the action does not involve a female coupling component of the Silver '875 device, but rather communicates between the housing (46) internal chamber and the outside of the housing directly through the housing. Thus, the opening cited in the action does not meet the limitations of present Claim 1.

The claims have been amended to clarify that the one or more channels communicate between the port in the female coupling component and with an opening in said rim portion of the female coupling component. Silver '875 lacks this feature of the claims and therefore cannot anticipate this limitation.

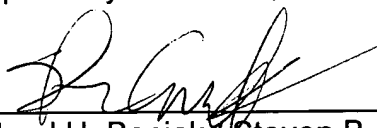
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Because Silver '875 does not meet each and every limitation of the present claims, it cannot anticipate the presently claimed invention. Because Silver '875 does not anticipate the present independent claims, it cannot anticipate any of the claims which depend therefrom. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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